

measures that strengthen our economy, cherish our families, and insist on schools that challenge the minds of our children.

I remember the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. who dreamed of a nation where people would be judged by the content of their minds and characters, rather than by their race or religion. It is a dream that I share, and one I will work hard to achieve, just as I will work hard to insure that America remains strong, for I believe that a peaceful planet earth depends now, more than ever before, on the leadership, strength and prosperity of the United States of America.

I dream of a country whose future is transformed by the innovative and inventive genius of her scientists, a transformation whose great accomplishments work to support the worth of the land and the values of her people. I dream of an America leading a united, free and prosperous planet to explore the vast reaches of outer space. What wonders await us there?

Can my vision, my dream for America come to pass? Yes. If all of us will strive to work together, if we will open our hearts to one another, and to people everywhere, if we as Americans and as citizens of planet earth share our hopes, our dreams, and our visions, the power of the human imagination and the wisdom of the heart will accomplish all of this, and much more. I see America as an American, proud of its accomplishments and committed to making it truly a haven of prosperity and dreams. For in dreams come visions and through visions come new and exciting ventures for all of us to share. Yes. That is my vision for America.

IN HONOR OF GIRO ESPOSITO, JR.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 5, 1995, the Local Union 90 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers [IBEW] will pay tribute to its business manager, Giro "Jerry" Esposito, Jr. in honor of his retirement. I would like to join Local 90 in commemorating this exceptional individual who has dedicated an entire career to his union and his craft. Jerry is a longtime family friend, and I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge his 43 years of service to the IBEW.

Jerry Esposito is not only an accomplished craftsman, but also a dependable coworker and an outstanding leader. His warm personality and high level of commitment have made him well respected by his colleagues at the IBEW. As the vice president, president, and most recently, the business manager, his dedication to the Electrical Workers Local 90 has never faltered and has resulted in prosperity and growth for the union.

Unions are crucial to the well-being of American workers and they depend heavily on the vitality and solidarity of their membership. Jerry Esposito's friends and fellow electrical workers have long relied on him as an essential member of their organization. He has always been active and willing to take the lead on important issues. As a member of the Connecticut Apprenticeship Council and the IBEW's Council on Industrial Relations, Jerry has given back both to his profession and to the union that has done so much for him.

I am sure his wife, Angie, and his children—Diane, Rosemary, and Patty—share in the tre-

mendous pride that Jerry feels at this moment. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved tribute, and I commend Jerry Esposito for 43 years of distinguished work. I wish him many years of good health and happiness in his retirement.

"THE FANTASTICKS" ARE FANTASTIC

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute "The Fantasticks," the longest running show in American theater history, and the longest running musical in the world. The creation of Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, "The Fantasticks" is celebrating its 35th anniversary at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York's Greenwich Village today, May 3, 1995.

Approaching its 14,500th performance, "The Fantasticks" speaks to the most basic human emotions with an eloquence and style that transcends international and generational boundaries. Not only is "The Fantasticks" the longest running show in American theater history, but there have been over 8,300 productions of the musical performed in all 50 States. In addition to these college, community, and amateur productions, there have been no less than 15 national touring companies who have performed this wonderful show for tens of thousands of people throughout the country, and on dozens of U.S. military bases abroad.

"The Fantasticks" has also enjoyed extended popularity on the international stage. Each year, thousands of visitors from abroad visit the Sullivan Street Playhouse to take in a performance. "The Fantasticks" has also spawned more than 500 productions in 67 foreign countries in such places as Canada, Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. The original cast recording of the play's music has sold more copies around the world than any other show.

And yet, it is not the incredible statistical records accumulated by this unique piece of theater that make it so extraordinary. "The Fantasticks" is special because for 35 years it has brought a countless number of people together to share an experience that they will take with them for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute "The Fantasticks" on this, its 35th anniversary, and I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing it another 35 years of continued success.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE ON UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which would establish a Small Business Administration regional office for the United States-Mexico border region. The United States-Mexico border region faces unique economic and small-business circumstances

which would best be addressed by devoting the efforts of a single office to the entire region. This measure is important now because of the recent economic events in Mexico which have severely affected businesses along the United States-Mexico border.

The SBA can and does help many border businesses, but many times their administrative structure does not allow for the special needs of our region. For too long, border SBA district offices, branch offices, and point-of-duty stations have had to report to regional offices in faraway cities. This causes the special needs of the region to be overlooked. My own SBA district office in El Paso reports to the regional office in Dallas which is over 600 miles away.

Apart from the distance question there is also the matter of SBA sensitivity to border business issues. Border cities' economic ties with Mexico give our business environment a special quality. The recent Mexican peso devaluation is a good example. In the retail industry, Texas border communities that cater to Mexican shoppers were the first to feel the effects of the peso devaluation.

Texas cities such as Laredo, McAllen, and El Paso all have shopping districts that rely heavily on sales to Mexican nationals. For example, the Laredo Chamber of Commerce estimates that retail sales in the downtown area dropped 60 to 80 percent in the last week of December, 1994, and the month of January. The McAllen Chamber of Commerce estimates that retail sales dropped about 20 percent by mid-January. In El Paso, which I represent, the Economic Development Council reports that downtown retail sales fell 70 to 75 percent after the devaluation. This has quite an impact, Mr. Speaker, because the retail sector comprises 25 percent of the El Paso economy.

These are the kinds of factors that make border economies unique and would best be served by a border regional SBA office. We need SBA management structure to reflect an understanding of United States/Mexico border needs. This bill would address that.

The establishment of a border regional SBA office is long overdue and I urge my colleagues to support it.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE ON U.S.-MEXICO BORDER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall establish a regional office of the Small Business Administration in a community in the United States located—

(1) not more than 10 miles from the border between the United States and Mexico; and

(2) as close as practicable to the point that is halfway between San Diego, California, and Brownsville, Texas.

(b) REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR.—The head of the office established under this section shall be the Regional Administrator of the Small Business Administration for the region of the United States located generally along the border between the United States and Mexico.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall delegate to the Regional Administrator referred